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Reactions to the September suppression of the religious opposition were predictable: most Egyptians, more concerned with economic than with political issues, probably either agreed with or were apathetic to Sadat's actions. The Muslim extremists, fortified in their opposition to Sadat and his policies, withdrew to regroup for their campaign against him. A small group, associated with Takfir wal-Hijra and Al-Jihad, continued their plans to kill the entire government leadership, take over government broadcasting facilities, and foment an Iranian-style revolution. The assassins chose 6 October to act because the celebration of the anniversary of the 1973 war presented an opportunity to kill the leadership as the first step in the revolution. The Muslim Brotherhood adopted a wait-and-see stance; Brotherhood leaders, who feared that the Communists might move in if Sadat were overthrown, instructed members to refrain from violence and not react to government moves. Many members of the student Islamic societies shaved their beards and donned Western-style clothing.

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